

# Integrated Pest Management Success stories



## Wisconsin apple grower significantly reduces pesticide use through NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

By adopting EQIP's pest management practice, this apple grower has been able to reduce his pesticide use by 30-50%.

Numerous Dane County apple growers have been able to significantly reduce their pesticide use by participating in EQIP - administered by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. Dick Green of Green's Pleasant Springs Orchard participated in EQIP for three years, and continues to improve his practices ever since.

Dick Green has used aspects of integrated pest management (IPM) for many years, even prior to participating in EQIP. The cost and health benefits he sees from reducing pesticide sprays provide personal incentive for him to seek IPM methods. Enrolling in EQIP in 2005 provided Green with the financial and technical assistance to enhance and expand his IPM practices.

A large portion of the EQIP money Green received was dedicated toward IPM. He acquired monitoring traps to determine insect pest density and degree of danger they posed, weather stations to monitor degree days and hours of wetness to decide whether disease sprays were necessary and deer fences and mouse guards to prevent damage from these four-



**Green has cut his sprays for pests like codling moth by 30 to 50 percent.**

legged pests. Scouting for pests and diseases is a time-worthy task, as it identifies if there is a problem or if a spray is unnecessary. Strategic chemical applications,

such as targeting only the perimeter trees to protect the rest of the orchard from pests that migrate in from outside the orchard is also a part of the pest management practice.

Green explains that codling moth was an

early season pest that used to be a serious problem in his orchard. "Three years ago I would have sprayed a number of times already. But so far this year I've not had to spray anything at all. We've just not had a problem with them," he states. Since he started using IPM, Green has reduced his sprays by 30-50%.

Part of the EQIP funds also helped pay for a pest management consultant to work with and advise Green, and help track his progress through the three years Green participated in the program. Although his contract expires this year, Green feels confident that the techniques and knowledge he's gained through EQIP will help him continue to improve his IPM practices.



**Pheromone traps help reduce codling moth populations and allow Green to monitor pest pressure and determine when spraying is needed.**

### Want more information?

North Central NRCS & IPM Working Group,  
North Central Fruit IPM tool  
<http://www.nrcs.ipm.msu.edu/>

North Central IPM Center, Fruit: Educational Resources  
<http://www.ncipmc.org/fruit/resources.cfm>